

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 9, 2018

The *vision* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is a healthy properly functioning watershed. This vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Jim and Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Chair Stephanie Wagner, Tom Bland, Larry Zucker, Mark Rosenkranz, Dwight Sangrey, Tom Bland, Sarah Asby. Our Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard was in attendance as was Sarah Ellison from Hallinan Heights Woods.

2. Operations

• Minutes

Resolved: Minutes for January 12, 2018 were unanimously accepted as presented.

• Finance Report: Treasurer, Tom Bland, reported receiving a \$50 contribution for Hallinan Heights Woods procurement goal. He reported our Watershed Council has \$9,684.72 as a balance in the account. His expectation is that in thirty more days, our projects will be approved by City auspices and \$9,000 will be distributed. Tom passed out a roster for Board members to update titles, addresses and email addresses in the organization. Also, Tom wanted members to read and sign-off on "Conflict of Interest" forms that he will email to Council members. Dwight suggested that our Council have a "VP" or vice-chair for functions like carrying on a meeting in Stephanie's absence. Unfortunately, though members considered this laudatory, no volunteers stepped forward to potentially fill this contemplated position

3. Reports

• Staff Report: Stephanie called members attention to the Sustainability Network's Climate Action Plan draft that will receive public input on February 20th at City Hall at 6:00pm. She said that funding had not yet been integrated into the planning of the natural resource part of the plan. She suggested members participate in reviewing the draft and make positive recommendations by way of realistic parameters that include tree species, how to capture information like mitigation planting, targeted areas for native tree planting, hydration, incentives, etc. For OLWC involvement, we would definitely need partners, sources of funding, and building our organization to accomplish this goal. Mike said he would attend to help take public critical feedback and ideas since Stephanie could not attend.

• State of the Watershed Event: Members commented on the good newspaper article, the positive program, and the good energy evinced in the gathering space.

Attendance was placed at fifty-six participants and everyone thought that the “passbook” scheme provided connectivity with all the tables or stations. Attention focused on next year and thoughts included using HelloLO and broadening our outreach invitations to the entire city, as well as county and the School District. Having a resident with a project on his or her property give an account of the restoration would also be a highlight in the program. But all thought Mountain Park was a great venue. Patrick requested numbers for food and donation allocations since he apparently had procured more than needed. Tom asked that we do a “run of show” precursor also so presenters would get an orientation prior to their delivery and organizers can better see and program a flow. Starting the organizing a little earlier next year was also a recommendation. The last topic concerned how to integrate younger people like high schoolers into not only this event but our Watershed Council goals and activities.

• **Project work:** With the Yates property owners giving permission to clear invasives in the delineated wetland area, Jim was out removing ivy from trees one day and witnessing a “freed” snag’s collapse on the next day. It had fallen over a neighboring fence and Mike and he used a chain saw to remove the encroached limbs and branches. Patrick has scheduled work parties for Boutwell and Hallinan. He also has reviewed the sites for where herbicide treatment would be recommended especially for control of laurel, holly, and blackberry. Patrick reported that he had been at the Park Academy project site for three days and had made contact with neighboring residents also. He suggested having a “control plot” on this site to evaluate what vegetation comes back after invasive removal. And he is using some new websites to solicit volunteers to our work parties. Dwight said that Mountain Park was developing a master plan for the common areas which would include a conceptual plan for stream restoration. In conjunction with the City and especially Rob, he thought after the few months of plan refinement, that Zsolt could report on the plan at one of our monthly meetings. Members talked expansively about positive changes they see needed in our unmaintained watershed areas like HOA open spaces, street right-of-ways, school properties, etc. Sarah inquired about getting Hallinan creek monitoring information like temperature measurements. Patrick and Mark offered to help as well as check with Sonja from the City about any information she might already have. Discussion ventured to “citizen science” opportunities to learn as much as we can about how rain affects stream flows, obtaining macro-invertebrate surveys, water quality data, etc. Sarah briefed members on recent conversations and contacts she has had with City elected officials as well as exploring other avenues for saving more if not all of the Yates property. She said that fundraising has reached over \$17,000 in pledges.

4. No New Business

5. No Public Comments and Announcements:

6. Meeting adjourns 9:30am

Next Meeting: March 9, 2018; 8:00am.